

Appl. No. 10/823,287
Response to Office Action mailed June 1, 2005

Atty Dkt. No. 114141-020

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the patent application.

Claim 1 (original): An air/water-tight slide fastener for opening and closing an opening formed in an article comprising:

a pair of fastener stringers each including an air/water-tight tape and a plurality of fastener elements mounted on one longitudinal edge thereof, each fastener element including a coupling element having a shaft and a coupling head provided on one end of the shaft, and a substantially U-shaped clamping element, the shaft being wrapped by the longitudinal edge of the tape with the coupling head projecting outwardly from the longitudinal edge of the tape, and then clamped by the U-shaped clamping element with the wrapping longitudinal tape edge interposed therebetween, the fastener tapes being mounted along the opposed edges of the opening on the rear side of the article;

a slider reciprocally movable along the fastener elements around the clamping elements to bring the coupling elements into and out of engagement with each other; and

an end stop integrally mounted on one end of the fastener stringers to stop the movement of the slider, the end stop including a block and a flange portion extending around the block and intimately fixed to the front side of the air/water-tight tape, at least part of the flange portion be extensive enough to be integrally fixed to the opening edges of the article.

Claim 2 (original): An air/water-tight slide fastener recited in claim 1, wherein the flange portion is made of flexible materials.

Claim 3 (original): An air/water-tight slide fastener recited in claim 1, wherein the flange portion continuously extends over the lower side and a pair of first and second lateral sides of the block.

Claim 4 (original): An air/water-tight slide fastener recited in claim 1, wherein the maximum width W1 of the slider is set to be less than the opening width W2 defined between the

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opening edges.

Claim 5 (original): An air/water-tight slide fastener recited in claim 1, wherein the width W3 of the flange portion is greater than the maximum width W1 of the slider.

Claim 6 (original): An air/water-tight slide fastener recited in claim 1, wherein the width W3 of the flange portion is greater than the opening width W2 defined between the opposed edges of the opening formed in the article.

Claim 7 (new): An air/water-tight slide fastener for opening and closing an opening formed in an article comprising:

- a pair of fastener stringers each including an air/water-tight tape and a plurality of fastener elements mounted on one longitudinal edge thereof, each fastener element including a coupling element having a shaft and a coupling head provided on one end of the shaft, and a substantially U-shaped clamping element, the shaft being wrapped by the longitudinal edge of the tape with the coupling head projecting outwardly from the longitudinal edge of the tape, and then clamped by the U-shaped clamping element with the wrapping longitudinal tape edge interposed therebetween, the fastener tapes capable of being mounted along the opposed edges of the opening on the rear side of the article;

- a slider reciprocally movable along the fastener elements around the clamping elements to bring the coupling elements into and out of engagement with each other; and

- an end stop integrally mounted on one end of the fastener stringers to stop the movement of the slider, the end stop including a block and a flange portion extending around the block and intimately fixed to the front side of the air/water-tight tape;

- wherein the flange portion extends along substantially an entire lower side and entire first and second lateral sides of the block, and

- the flange portion extends away from the block sufficiently to be integrally fixed to the opening edges of the article along substantially the entire lower side and the entire first and second lateral sides of the block.